



Enabling Women of Kamand

A Biannual Newsletter

March 2019

EWOK Education

New classes started to impart training in basic IT & Internet skills and Spoken English.

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Workshops and events held to impart information and increase exposure.

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Updates on various initiatives and businesses mentored by EWOK.

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Edition Spotlight

The year has been a busy one here at EWOK. As mentioned in our previous edition, EWOK, in collaboration with the IIT Mandi Medicinal Plant Lab, is now involved with the farming community which is the major part of the local community. We are also connecting with industry.

On the entrepreneurial front, this year EWOK presented the 2018 Emerging Entrepreneur Award to Nirmla



EWOK Emerging Entrepreneur 2018.
Nirmla Kumari, PWD Contractor

Kumari during the 2019 Women's Day celebrations. She is a resident of village Baglidhar and the first woman in this area to get a PWD license! Now she employs seven others in landscaping the IIT Mandi North Campus. EWOK continues to help Nirmla Kumari expand her business. Her revenue exceeded Rs 5 lakhs.



Sheetal, Kamand valley resident, created EWOKhabar

EWOK also started an internship program where women with degrees like BCA are given hands on

opportunities. Thanks to the work of Sheetal, our first intern, EWOKhabar - EWOK's portal for local women seeking information about jobs, training, education etc is now up and running. Do take a look at <http://ewok.iitmandi.ac.in/ewokhabar>.

About EWOK

EWOK is an initiative to bring opportunities to the hardworking women of Kamand valley, enabling them to develop employable and marketable skills and access relevant information.

Lend us a hand

If you wish to donate or know more, please contact us at

ewok@iitmandi.ac.in

ewok.iitmandi.ac.in



You can volunteer or sponsor specific activities as follows:

Seed grants: ₹ 500 - ₹ 10000 per business

Awards and Recognition: ₹ 10000 per year

Computer Training: ₹ 15000 for a 3-month batch

Fundraising



EWOK Education



In collaboration with the NIIT foundation EWOK continues to offer courses in Spoken English and Introduction to Computing. In 2018 EWOK has graduated three batches of students of

Basic Computing and Spoken English.



Dr. Priscilla Gonslaves and Dr. Rajan Kapoor presided over the convocations where the students received their certificates. Currently 24 students have received certification, 4 are enrolled in college, 5 have landed internships and employment.

EWOK Events

In the past 6 months EWOK has organized and participated in several events and workshops that aimed to increase exposure of our women. We were also honored to interact with encouraging guests like Er. Sonam Wangchuk, Mr. Nitin Paul and Dr. Subrahmanyam, Secretary MHRD. We are working towards meaningful collaborations.

A glimpse in pictures.



Stalls serving local delicacies and Himachali wear at Exodia 2018



An exposure visit to IHBT Palampur to learn about Mission Aroma.



**Business Fundamentals by Mr. Nitin Paul
Founder, Evangelists Inc., a New York based IT
Infra Services Company.**



**Discussion with Er. Sonam Wangchuk, Ramon
Magasaysay awardee, innovator & Education
Reformist**



Visit by Dr. Subrahmanyam R, Secretary MHRD

EWOK Updates

A quick look at the various ventures that were started in the past year and how they fare!

* **Agriculture.** EWOK continues to sponsor new agri projects in collaboration with **IIT Mandi Medicinal Plant Lab**. Visits were conducted to nearby panchayats to recruit interested farmers. 16 families are interested in introducing new crops such as Tegetes for essential oils, rose and other herbs. These crops were chosen based on land suitability as well as presence of industry partners ready to purchase the produce.

* **Bingal Dev Bhoomi Mushrooms** has started growing Oyster mushrooms that was well received in the Kamand valley.

* **Neha Devi Laundry Services (NDLS)** steps in to fill a void in laundry services in the area. MDLS is currently providing this service to the South Campus residents of IIT Mandi and is planning an expansion of services.

* **Dharma Beauty & Tailoring Services** continues to steadily increase its customer base.



* **Balak Rupri SHG** was trained to package herbal infusions and assisted in forward integrating with **Thapasu Foods LLC**, a Manali based startup. They will be guided to increase their revenues by increasing value offerings.

* **Agni Patal SHG** reached out to EWOK for assistance in marketing their handwoven shawls and caps. EWOK also helped in value addition by connecting them to IIT Mandi faculty to make customized bags with Himachali embellishments for workshops.



Looking ahead

For the last several months EWOK has been working towards registration as a society. The members of the society are Dr. Tulika Srivastava (President), Dr. Jaspreet Kaur (Vice President), Dr. Reshma Rao (Treasurer), Ms. Sandhya Menon (Secretary), Dr. Priscilla Gonsalves (Managing Committee), Dr. Devika Sethi, Dr. Shyam Masakapalli, Dr. Prem Felix. We expect to finalise registration in May.

We continue to keep a slow and steady pace in order to ensure full cycle guidance to our local women. The future roadmap involves setting up a high quality multipurpose food processing unit that can be utilised by the agripreneurs. We are very grateful for your continued support. It would be our pleasure to welcome you to visit us anytime!



**EWOK Education: (L-R) Daya Devi, Nirmla
Kumari, Parvati**

**First 3 in pioneer batch to intern/start a
venture.**